



INNOVATIONS FOR SUCCESSFUL SOCIETIES

A Newcomer NGO Builds a Network to Fight the Modern Slave Trade

In the late 1990s and early 2000s, governments and activist organizations around the world set their sights on ending the business of human trafficking. Many groups emerged to assist victims of the crime, but few made progress toward eliminating the roots of the problem. Duncan Jepson, a lawyer for a Hong Kong-based bank, said he believed too little was being done to spotlight the shadowy criminal networks that typically crossed government jurisdictions and sometimes included otherwise legitimate businesses. Jepson decided that disrupting the trade in human beings required new types of collaboration to unravel criminal networks and confront the organizations that abetted their activities. In 2012, he founded a nongovernmental organization called Liberty Asia, which aimed to bridge institutional gaps and approach human trafficking from an economic perspective by using increasingly robust anti-money-laundering tools that were at the disposal of banks and bank regulators. This case profiles Liberty Asia's efforts and focuses on the challenges associated with coordinating many different types of organizations to confront a common challenge.

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Using the Liberty Asia Approach to Address Other Challenges

During the past year, ISS has published a series of case studies about use of supply chain certification to preserve forests. The cases focus on ways to draw smallholders into compliance with forest protection laws and highlight the difficulty of this task where organizing these farmers is expensive, the certified product is indistinguishable from harvests grown unsustainably, and consumers focus exclusively on price. The ISS cross-cutting analysis points to the need to expand our thinking. This month's case study about efforts to address human trafficking introduces one alternative.

[Read the cross-cutting brief](#)

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+1 609-258-5258 | iss@princeton.edu | successfulsocieties.princeton.edu

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